

# ***SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE***

Septic systems are designed to handle your wastewater. In general, the system temporarily holds wastewater in a tank where solids and lighter materials separate from the wastewater and settle in the tank. Wastewater then leaves the tank and flows into a distribution box that separates this flow into a network of drain field trenches. Drainage holes at the bottom of each trench (line) allow the wastewater to drain into gravel trenches for temporary storage. From there, wastewater can slowly seep into the soil.

## ***CARE OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS***

It is important to know the location of your system and where the drain field is located. Keep accurate service records along with a sketch of the system. A licensed professional should inspect your system every three to five years.

## ***WATER CONSERVATION, HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS***

Water conservation is extremely important to reduce the amount of water running into your system. Install water-conserving devices and repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Use your dishwasher only when full and use the correct size setting when loading your washing machine. Do not do excessive laundry loads as doing so could flood your drain fields.

Divert roof drains, sump pumps, house-footing drains, and surface water **AWAY** from the system. Water filtration systems cannot be channeled to your system. A separate drainage system is required.

Use household chemicals sparingly and always read the

manufacturer's product information. While small amounts of household cleaners can be diluted in the system, Hazardous Chemicals (paint thinner, anti-freeze, pesticides) **CANNOT** be put into the system or they will destroy the groundwater. Take leftover chemicals to ***Household Hazardous Waste Day***.

## ***SAFEGUARDS FOR A HEALTHY SEPTIC SYSTEM***

Only use Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved additives to your system as these will not harm your system or the environment. Do not use a garbage disposal that feeds into your tank as food wastes and other solids reduce your system's ability to function properly. Do not plant trees or large shrubs on your system because roots can damage the pipes. Finally, do not drive or park on your system. Vehicles and equipment can cause your drain field to collapse.

## ***IMPORTANT SIGNS OF SYSTEM FAILURE***

- ◆ Sluggish drainage
- ◆ Plumbing backups
- ◆ Gurgling sound in pipes or drains
- ◆ Outdoor sewage odor
- ◆ Greener grass over the drain field
- ◆ Sewage surfacing over the drain field (especially after storms)

## ***WEBSITES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

For a list of approved additives that will not harm your system:

[www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wwm/files/addallwd.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wwm/files/addallwd.htm)

For additional environmental/septic information:

[www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

***PLEASE NOTE:*** A copy of Town of Tyngsborough Supplemental

Regulations to Title 5 of the State Environmental Code is available at the Board of Health Office located at Town Hall and on the town website: <http://www.tyngsboroughma.gov>.

## **BOARD OF HEALTH SERVICES**

***The following are some of the services offered by the Tyngsborough Board of Health:***

- ◆ Emergency management
- ◆ Communicable disease reporting and control
- ◆ Sewage disposal
- ◆ Air quality
- ◆ Noise control
- ◆ Lead poisoning prevention
- ◆ Immunizations and vaccine distributions
- ◆ Substance/tobacco abuse services
- ◆ Rabies clinic
- ◆ Animal and insect control
- ◆ Food protection
- ◆ Syringe, tire, battery and hazardous waste collection
- ◆ Flu clinics
- ◆ Mental health
- ◆ Licenses of: restaurants, retail food, massage therapy, pools, beaches, body art, tanning, septic haulers and installers

***For information on any of these services,  
please call:  
1-978-649-2300 ext. 118***

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Board of health is to develop and maintain innovative programs

to safeguard and improve the general health of the citizens of the Town. Responsibilities include developing and promoting disease prevention and wellness programs as well as improving health education and environmental awareness. The Board of Health is also responsible for interpreting and enforcing the provisions of the State Public Health Code, State Sanitary Code, State and local Environmental Code.

### ***ABOUT THIS SEPTIC BROCHURE***

Knowledge about your septic system and its maintenance are important factors in protecting and prolonging the life of your septic system and for sustaining a safe and healthy environment. We hope the information and suggestions in this brochure prove helpful.